NOTE XXXIX.

REPORT ON BIRDS FROM THE NETHERLANDS RECEIVED FROM 1 SEPTEMBER 1911 TILL 1 SEPTEMBER 1912

BY

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As to the increase of the collection of birds observed in the Netherlands, the past twelve months have been important; during that lapse of time the collection is augmented with 594 skins and 335 eggs in clutches.

I have to mention the following gentlemen, who presented us with indigenous birds, in the first place H. R. H. Prince Hendrik, and further: D. Bakker, N. Balt, W. H. de Beaufort, F. E. Blaauw, J. Boonstra, F. K. Baron van Dedem, R. van Eecke, L. Baron van Heeckeren tot Walien, Jhr. W. C. van Heurn, P. J. van Houten, C. J. van der Klaauw, A. Kohlbeck, E. Loeb, Mr. H. A. Lorentz, A. Man in 't Veld, J. L. F. de Meyere, H. M. Rose, Jhr. F. de Roy van Zuidewijn, K. G. Smit, Ch. van Spall, G. S. van der Spruyt, F. A. Verster van Wulverhorst, F. H. Verster and J. C. Wäkerlin. A fine example of *Dendrocopos medius* (L.), a female, shot at Heino, province Overijssel, 5 September 1908, was given to us in free loan by Mr. F. K. Baron van Dedem; this species was not yet represented in our collection of native birds. Of another species, also not yet represented in the collection, the aquatic warbler, *Calamodus aquatica* (Gmelin), we received a fine series of 30 examples from one of our lighthouses.

The more important acquisitions are:

Phalacrocorax graculus (L.).

A young female was shot at Voorschoten near Leiden, 12 August 1912, and presented to our collection by Mr. G. S. van der Spruyt.

Cygnus bewickii Yarrell.

Bewick's swan has been observed last autumn more frequently than was the case in other years. I received 5 specimens, old and young ones, shot in the last of October and in November in the eastern part of the Zuiderzee near Blokzijl.

Branta bernicla (L.) [var. **collaris** (Brehm)?].

The form with light grey under parts and white vent, which occurs with the common dark form in Nova-Zembla, Kolguev and Spitsbergen (see O. Le Roi in A. Koenig's Avifauna Spitzbergensis, 1911, p. 214), has been observed in January and February in several examples. I received 8 specimens, ♂♂ and ♀♀, shot in the last of January and the first half of February near Texel and on the coast of the province Friesland; five of them are very light on the under parts and quite agree with two examples in our collection from North America; the 3 other ones are darker, the colour of their under parts being between that of the light and the dark form, more approaching however that of the light form.

Aythia nyroca (Güldenstädt).

The Museum received two females shot 7 and 14 September 1911, and a male shot 4 August 1912 at Nieuwkoop, province Zuid-Holland.

Somateria mollissima (L.).

An old ♂ in change was shot at Nieuwkoop 19 November 1911 and purchased for our collection. I mention this capture, as the locality is tolerably far inland.

Falco merillus (Gerini).

18 May 1912 a young female of the merlin, pursued by some crows and very fatigued, was caught alive at Zoeterwoude near Leiden. Some days afterwards I received the dead bird for the collection. This is a late date for this species. In the Collection van Wickevoort Crommelin there is a specimen caught at 7 May in our country. Schlegel stated, that this species is observed in summer in the Netherlands, but as far as I am aware, in no collection there are specimens killed in this season.

Stercorarius parasiticus (L.).

I received only one example, a young male, shot 16 September 1911 at Makkum on the coast of Friesland. No other skua's were sent to the Museum in that year.

Larus minutus Pallas.

In my last report I could mention twelve examples, sent to our collection. During the winter of 1911—1912 I received four examples, shot 22 November 1911 on the coast of Groningen and 14 December 1911, 20 and 23 January 1912 at den Helder.

Uria troille (L.) var. **ringvia** Brünnich.

Among several guillemots shot this winter near Texel there were only two of the ringed variety, both males, killed 17 and 26 January.

Alle alle (L.).

In the last of January and the beginning of February the little auk has visited our country in great numbers, though by no means in such numbers as it has been observed at that time in Great-Britain and Ireland. Nine specimens, 4 ♂♂ and 5 ♀♀, were sent to the Museum, viz. one, caught 20 January at den Helder; two, 23 January den Helder; one, 29 January den Helder; one, 1 February

den Helder; two, 2 February Noordwijk; one, 5 February den Helder and one, 6 February Voorschoten near Leiden.

Nucifraga caryocatactes macrorhynchos Brehm.

The Siberian, slender-billed form of the nutcracker has been observed frequently in the autumn of 1911, specially in the month of October, in nearly all parts of our country. I received for the collection four examples, shot in the provinces Zuid-Holland, Friesland and Drente, all in October.

As I have published in „Ardea", the periodical of the Dutch Ornithological Society, vol. I, p. 22, also a specimen of the European, thick-billed nutcracker, *Nucifraga caryocatactes* (L.), is shot in our country, the first one observed here; this specimen was captured near Gendringen, province Gelderland, 7 October 1911.

Calamodus aquatica (Gmelin).

The aquatic warbler, as is known, is a very rare bird in our country. We did not possess a specimen shot in the Netherlands. I am glad to say, that we have now a fine series of this species, for 14 August I received 28 specimens, perished at the lighthouse at Haamstede, province Zeeland, in the night of 12—13 August, and 20 and 23 August I received at every time one further specimen, found dead resp. 19 and 22 August at the same place. The birds are partly in summerdress, partly already moulted; black shaftlines on breast and sides of body are present in some examples, in birds in summerdress as well as in moulted birds.

I hope that I shall be able to continue next year these annual reports, but I fear that the new law for protection of birds in the Netherlands, which is passed by the Chambers now, will impede scientific study of native birds in such a manner, that it will be practically impossible to get the wanted material.

Leyden Museum, 2 September 1912.